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For Immediate Release

GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

(DES MOINES, IOWA) – January 13, 2003 – Grants are now available to schools and community groups interested in establishing quality after-school programs as part of the federal 21st Century Community Learning Center program.

The purpose of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program, first authorized as a national program in 1996, is to provide grants to schools, community-based, faith-based, and/or non-profit organizations as partners for the establishment of community learning centers to keep children safe in the after-school hours. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, signed into law on January 8, 2002 by President Bush, transfers to states administration of this opportunity for students and their families to continue to learn new skills and discover new abilities after the school day has ended.

Applications for CCLC grants under the No Child Left Behind Act, 2001, Title IV, Part B must be a **partnership** between:

- One or more schools that are Title I schoolwide eligible
together with
- One or more nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, public agencies, or private agencies that primarily serve students who attend eligible schools.

The Iowa Department of Education expects to approve and distribute 10 to 15 awards. Grants to schools will range from a \$50,000 minimum to \$150,000 maximum, with a \$650,000 maximum allowed per application. A match will not be required. Funds will be available to local programs for five years (October 1, 2003 through June 30, 2008, pending Congressional appropriations, through a contractual agreement.

Applicants will be asked to demonstrate their program will:

- Identify and recruit students.
- Design a program to accommodate participants' needs.
- Provide high quality, developmentally appropriate activities.

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- Provide staff development.
- Ensure highly effective program management.
- Integrate after-school programming with the regular school day, and other federal and state funded programs.
- Integrate with school improvement and reform initiatives.
- Engage in collaboration among schools, community-based organizations, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, government, and civic organizations.
- Address sense of community and cultural issues and drug and violence prevention related issues.
- Incorporate activities that address the educational needs of parents and families of program participants as an integral part of the project.
- Use volunteers to enrich student learning experiences.

Letters of Intent are due to the Iowa Department of Education by March 7, 2003, and completed applications are due April 4, 2003. For complete application guidelines and materials, please call Toni Blair at the Iowa Department of Education at 515/281-5494, or visit the Iowa Department of Education website at <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/cfcs/21stcclc/index.html>.

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